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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Participants in the Policy Coordinating Committee on Latin America .

FROM: Bernard Aronson, Chairman, PCC on Latin America

SUBJECT: PCC Meeting on Supporting Venezuelan Democracy

The Policy Coordinating Committee on Latin America will meet to discuss ways to strengthen the elected government and democracy in Venezuela in the immediate future.

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 1992

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Department, ARA Conference Room, Room 6909

AGENDA:

I. Introduction	Chairman
II. Intelligence Briefing	INR
III. Discussion of Policy Options	All

A) The immediate threat to Venezuelan democracy is the possibility of a military uprising. How do we encourage Venezuelan military leaders to support the elected government?

(1) Whether to send a high-level military official to Venezuela;

(2) Whether to find ways to engage Venezuelan military officers directly to support democracy. e.g. aggressively use military officers to make contacts; contact graduates of U.S. military schools

(3) How to communicate to the Venezuelan military our legal obligation to end military assistance and intention to end sales to the GOV in the event of a coup.

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(4) Whether to use some or all of Venezuela's IMET monies for an "expanded IMET" program designed to encourage respect for civilian rule, and whether to seek additional IMET funds for this purpose.

B) What steps can the USG take to strengthen CAP's political position?

(1) Whether and how to use Agency for International Development (AID) funds to support Venezuelan democracy.

(2) How to deal with Venezuelan expectations it will be a candidate for an early Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the U.S.

(3) Whether to encourage the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to support Venezuelan democracy.

(4) Whether to encourage CAP to launch an international "good government" (anti-corruption) initiative.

(5) Whether to suggest to selected Venezuelan politicians that they not engage in activities which might inadvertently undermine the democratic system.

IV. Discussion Items

To clarify the message we are now delivering to the Venezuelans, military and civilian, we should discuss what might be done if a coup were even partially successful. Although we do not believe the following are viable options in the Venezuelan context, they should be discussed by the PCC

A) Imposing a trade embargo against Venezuela in the event of a successful coup.

B) Freezing official Venezuelan assets in the U.S. in the event of a successful coup.

V. Summary and Recommendations

Chairman

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Principals plus one are invited to attend. Participants should phone their attendance to Matt Kaplan at 647-3338.

Attachments:

- Tab A - Background paper
- Tab B - Discussion papers
- Tab C - State assessment of embargoing Venezuelan oil

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